

DPW Director Talks About: Using Technology

Did you know every aspect of DPW's operations uses technology? Today's trash and recycling collections look like collections made for decades. Now, technology helps us plan routes to make the operation more efficient, use fuel more wisely and stay on time.



Director William O. Howland, Jr.

Technology also is at work in our parking enforcement program. We began using license plate recognition technology (LPRT) several years ago in our vehicle booting program. The results: more boots applied per day, which means fewer motorists not paying their fines.

Next month, I'll let you know the results of the recycling/trash sort project.

FY 2008 First Quarter Statistics (October – December 2007)

- Percent on time (same day) trash and recycling collection: 99.93%
- Percent on time bulk collection: 99.49%
- Downtown and arterial lane miles cleaned: 6,736
- Fall leaf collection tonnage: 7,256 tons
- Abandoned vehicles removed from public and private space: 493
- Vehicles towed for rush-hour violations: 3,873

How-to Tips for Residential Recycling

What's recyclable: glass bottles and jars; most types of clean paper, such as mail, office paper, newspaper and cardboard (including cereal and shipping boxes), metal cans, and narrow-neck plastic bottles for shampoo, laundry detergent, and water.

What's not: yogurt cups, meat trays, lunch "clamshells" or foam packaging, such as "peanuts."

- Rinse bottles and jars. Loosely place them, with their caps or lids, into your city-provided, residential recycling cart or bin (no separating necessary) with the paper and metal items.
- Please, do not put recyclables into plastic bags.
- Not enough room in your recycling container? Put overflow items into brown paper grocery bags.
- Place the container(s) next to your trash can on your collection day, no later than 6:30 am.
- Bring your container(s) in by 8 pm on your collection day.



Upcoming DPW Events

March 24 – Resume residential mechanical street sweeping program; ticketing begins March 31

April 3 – FY 2009 Budget Hearing, 2 pm to 4 pm, John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

April 5 – Great American Clean-up: 8 am assemble at US Department of Transportation Plaza/Tingey Street Parking Lot

April 26 – Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)/E-cycling collection, 9 am to 3 pm, Carter Barron Amphitheatre, Kennedy and 16th Streets, NW

May 18-24 – National Public Works Week



Holiday Notice – Wednesday, April 16, Emancipation Day to be Observed

Trash and recycling collections resume Thursday, April 17. Wednesday collections will be made Thursday, Thursday's will be made Friday, and Friday's will be made Saturday. This applies to once-weekly and twice-weekly collections neighborhoods.

Residential street sweeping resumes Thursday, April 17.

Parking meters, residential street sweeping, residential permit parking and rush-hour enforcement will resume Thursday, April 17.